

REMARKS

In light of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are in this application.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. The drawings have been corrected and attached at the end of this Amendment as "Replacement Sheets." Specifically, the Examiner objected to Fig. 1A because the Examiner indicated that the labels for reference characters "59" and "60" needed to be switched. Further, the Examiner objected to Fig. 1B because the Examiner indicated that the labels for reference characters "28" and "30" needed to be switched. Applicant has made such changes and therefore respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,928) in view of Ronen (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,660).

In explaining the above 103(a) rejection with regard to independent claims 1 and 4 (from which the other claims depend), the Examiner acknowledged that Takahashi does not disclose "notifying the user if a different communication line would allow the video signal to be transmissible if it is determined that the video signal is not transmissible over the designated communication line and ... generating control information ..." In an attempt to overcome this deficiency, the Examiner relied on Ronen (and, in particular, lines 29-50 of column 1) to teach such feature.

Ronen was filed on July 15, 1999. The present application, on the other hand, has claimed priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 based upon Japanese Application No. 11-165070 filed on

June 11, 1999 in Japan. A certified copy of such foreign application was filed in the present application as indicated on the Summary Sheet of the Office Action dated December 5, 2003. A certified translation in English of this priority application (i.e., Japanese Application No. 11-165070) accompanies this Amendment. Accordingly, the present application has an effective filing date, which antedates the filing date of Ronen. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that Ronen is not an effective prior art reference against the present application.

Furthermore, although the applicant has asserted that Ronen is not an effective reference against the present application, such assertion is not a representation concerning distinctions and/or similarities between the present invention and Ronen. Applicant reserves his right to traverse any further rejection that may be presented on a similar document and having an earlier effective date.

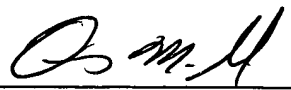
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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